

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121275
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /071 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:FMISCH:FLW
APPROVED BY EA - MR. GLEYSSTEEN
HA - LMORIN (SUBS)
EA/K - MR. RICH

-----080420 121444Z /64

R 120201Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, KS, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT HEALTH OF KIM TAE-
CHUNG

REF: SEOUL 2569

1. CONGRESSMAN FRASER HAS WRITTEN DEPARTMENT TO ASK FOR
OFFICIAL INQUIRY INTO HEALTH OF KIM TAE-CHUNG, REPORTEDLY
EXPERIENCING INCREASING DIFFICULTY WITH LEGS. REPORT
ORIGINATED WITH REVEREND CHARLES C. SONG OF SAN FRANCISCO,
CHAIRMAN OF KOREAN CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY AND UNIFICATION.
WE HAVE SEEN SIMILAR REPORTS IN JAPANESE-PUBLISHED KOREAN
HUMAN RIGHTS NEWSLETTER AND IN CHOSEN SOREN ORGAN "PEOPLES
KOREA."

2. DURING APRIL 17 CALL ON KOREA DESK, REVEREND SONG
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EXPLAINED THAT HE CALLED MRS. KIM DURING A RECENT VISIT TO
TOKYO AND SHE DESCRIBED HUSBAND'S CONDITION AND PROGNOSIS
IN EMOTIONAL AND APPREHENSIVE TERMS. ACCORDING TO SONG,
KIM HAS BEEN ADVISED TO HAVE OPERATION ON LEGS, BUT FEARS
OUTCOME OF OPERATION PERFORMED BY GOVERNMENT-DESIGNATED
PHYSICIANS. MR. AND MRS. KIM ARE REPORTEDLY PRESSING FOR
RIGHT TO SELECT PHYSICIANS, AND IF ROKG DOES NOT AGREE TO

THIS, KIM WANTS TO BE RETURNED TO PRISON.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD INQUIRE INTO KIM'S HEALTH STATUS, INCLUDING ALLEGATION THAT HE IS DENIED OPTION OF CONSULTING PHYSICIAN OF HIS CHOICE BEFORE UNDERGOING OPERATION. IF EMBASSY VERIFIES THAT KIM IS UNABLE TO SELECT PHYSICIAN, EMBASSY SHOULD EXPRESS TO APPROPRIATE ROKG OFFICIALS THAT, IN U.S. VIEW, SUCH A SITUATION CONSTITUTES PETTY AND UNWARRANTED TREATMENT OF PROMINENT PRISONER, WHO IS PRESUMABLY RECEIVING BEST MEDICAL TREATMENT ROK HAS TO OFFER, AND THAT THIS SITUATION WILL NEEDLESSLY AGGRAVATE AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD ROK. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, HEALTH, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780563/aaaacub.tel
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Message ID: 8733969f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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